

Intermediate and Main Distribution Frame (IDF & MDF) (Applies to all bases)

Communications cables transmitted out of computers can only be transmitted over a short distance before attenuation becomes excessive. As a result, switches will have to be installed in almost all buildings. These switches are called Intermediate Distribution Frames (IDFs) and Main Distribution Frames (MDFs). The IDFs and MDFs make up the Base Area Network will require permanent space for the support of the equipment. The ideal space for a typical IDF and MDF will be near the site building's existing main point of entry for telecommunications infrastructure. The ideal space for a typical IDF will be within 55 – 60 meter radius of the seats/users to be served.

Site Size in Seats	Area Required	Racks- Unclassified	Racks- Classified
Up to 48 (IDF)	8sf/can be wall mounted	1	1
49 – 100 (IDF)	8sf	1	1
101-200 (IDF)	16sf	2	2
201-500 (MDF)	24sf	3	3